



SLDS Spotlight

Oregon's Direct Access to Achievement (DATA) Project



Direct Access to Achievement

An integrated approach on how to use data to inform instruction

The inception of the Oregon Direct Access to Achievement (DATA) Project (ODP) in 2007 signaled the beginning of a culture shift in the state.¹ Prior to that time, “the belief [in Oregon] was that if you had the information, it would tell you what to do,” says Mickey Garrison, Director of the project. “But data only allows you to start to ask better questions.” The primary goal of the ODP was to help teachers and administrators learn how to gather, interpret, and use data to improve instruction.

This shift toward a culture of effective data use coincided with shifting beliefs in the education arena: the idea that any child, regardless of demographics or background, could be successful, and that the primary indicator of any child's success was effective instruction...in other words, it's a teacher's job to teach a child. James Joseph Scheurich and Linda Skrla discussed this new way of thinking in their book, “Leadership for Equity and Excellence: Creating High-Achievement Classrooms, Schools and Districts”:

In equitable and excellent schools, the goal of the whole school is to get each and every child, no matter what his or her differences are and no matter what he or she has learned or not learned at home, to learn the designated curriculum material at the highest level. This obviously is a very different perspective for educators to have. This obviously requires that teachers learn how to work in a very different way than they did under the old paradigm. (68)

ODP began the shift to this “new paradigm” by holding focus groups throughout the state to identify need. The results of this research (available at <http://www.oregondatapoint.org/content/findings-field>) indicated that the work of the ODP should integrate with current initiatives (Response to Intervention, Effective Behavior and Instructional Support, Priority Schools, etc.) while providing instruction in data use. Another common concern was simple geography: the sheer size and varied terrain of the state would make it difficult and time-consuming for many districts to travel for training. The state was divided into seven “sustainability regions” (<http://www.oregondatapoint.org/content/regions-map>) to ensure that no one need travel more than two hours to receive training.

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Mickey Garrison
Oregon DATA Project

Cory Steiner
*North Dakota Educational
Technology Council*

Jeff Sellers
State Support Team, SLDS Grant Program

*For more information on the IES SLDS
Grant Program or for support with system
development, please visit
<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS>.*

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Training, Certification, and Conferences

Oregon's Education Service Districts (regional education units encompassing multiple school districts) began hosting two-day instructional training sessions in 2008. Since that time, training has expanded to include five “strands”:

- Strands 1 & 2 (combined after initial roll-out): Using Data to Improve Learning in Districts and Schools
- Strand 3: Using Data to Improve Learning in the Classroom
- Strand 4: Essential Skills in Reading and Writing: Impact on Teaching and Learning
- Strand 5: Embedded Formative Classroom Assessment

The related training materials and videos for each strand are publicly available on the ODP's website at <http://www.oregondataport.org/content/instructional-training>.

The ODP also offers on-demand technical training, which focuses on data quality. The technical training is separated into three components: 1) The Need for Data Quality, 2) Building a Culture of Data Quality, and 3) A Culture of Data Quality in Action. All the resources for these training tracks are available at <http://oregondataport.org/content/technical-training>. To sustain the work of the project, a system of certifying trainers was created. Those seeking certification are expected to have background knowledge of the training strands and complete selected readings before attending the rigorous two-day certification workshop. If a trainer becomes certified—and certification is not a guarantee—the trainer returns to his/her home district qualified to facilitate a team process on how to use data to improve student achievement. As of August 2012, approximately 600 educators had received certification. The documents, videos, and presentations used during certification training are available at <http://www.oregondataport.org/content/certification-resources>.

Beginning in 2010, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) began partnering with the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) to put on the Summer Assessment Institute (SAI). While the initial conferences drew mainly administrators from around the state, many districts now use the SAI as a fall retreat and include teachers. In addition to keynote speakers and breakout sessions, the SAI includes valuable time for district teams to work and plan as a team, with coaches available to help guide the team's work. Information on this year's SAI, as well as past conference presentations and resources, are available at <http://oregondataport.org/content/conferences>.

Evaluating the Impact


In the spring of 2011, the ODE had an outside contractor, Next Level Evaluation, Inc., evaluate the implementation and outcomes of the ODP. The evaluation looked at the adult indicators of belief, barriers, and knowledge, and triangulated these indicators with student achievement. Among other findings, the evaluation found that “[t]eachers reported significant decreases in resistance to Data-Driven Decision Making (DDDM) and noticeable increases in teacher efficacy while maintaining relatively high levels of concerns about the logistics of DDDM (Management Concerns) and the impact of DDDM on students (Consequence Concerns).” The “Oregon DATA Project Final Evaluation Report” is available at <http://oregondataport.org/content/evaluation-report>.

Oregon DATA Project Partners

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| • Oregon Department of Education,
Education Enterprise Steering Committee | • Oregon School Board Association |
| • Education Service Districts | • Confederation of Oregon
School Administrators |
| • Oregon Community Colleges | • Oregon Education Association |
| • Oregon University System | • Teacher Standards and Practices Commission |
| • Oregon PreK-12 | • The Governor's Office |

Resources

An important sustainability effort for the ODP is the expectation that regions involved in the project develop resources for the project's resource library. The ODP's online resource library is broken down into three sections: ZipTrain (an e-learning platform for professional development and educational courses), Instructional, and Technical. With an online library, Oregon stakeholders are able to share and access resources that might otherwise be difficult to share across the state.



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The Oregon Direct Access to Achievement (DATA) Project is an initiative of the **OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**.

Events & training

- Classroom assessment
- Certification sessions**
- Training calendars
- Conferences

Resource Library

- OSTX
- ZipTrain
- Instructional**
- Technical**

Webinar series

- 2011-2012 presentations
- 2012-2013 presentations

Sustainability

- Regions map
- Resources
- Report templates
- College credit
- Toolkit for Accountability

Work Group

- Meetings
- Members

Reports

- DATA Project at a glance
- Project video
- Timeline
- The First Two Years
- Year Three
- Year Four
- Year Five
- Year Six

Documents

- Progress reviews
- Communications plan
- Governance plan

Certification Sessions: <http://www.oregondataport.org/content/certification-sessions>

Example Documents Available on Certification Sessions Page:

- Blank and sample 100-Day Leadership Plans
- Observation Tool
- Implementation Rubric: Data-Driven Instruction and Assessment
- Key Concept and Vocabulary Review (on 2011 Certification Resources page, <http://www.oregondataport.org/content/2011-certification-resources>)

Instructional Training: <http://www.oregondataport.org/content/instructional-training>

Example Documents Available on Instructional Resource Page:

- Strand 2: Training Videos on Proactive Data Tools
- Strand 3: Blank and Sample Personal Commitment Sheets
- Strand 4: Focus on Secondary Literacy PowerPoint Presentation
- Strand 5: Formative Assessment Worksheets

Technical Training: <http://www.oregondataport.org/content/technical-training>

Oregon DATA Project Documents:

- Progress Reviews: <http://www.oregondataport.org/content/progress-reviews>
- Communications Plan: <http://www.oregondataport.org/content/communications-plan>
- Governance Plan: <http://www.oregondataport.org/content/oregon-data-project-governance-plan>